



# Egremont News

Issue 113

July, 2020

## Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a quarterly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. **If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall - [tegrement@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:tegrement@egremont-ma.gov) or 413-528-0182.**

## Selectboard:

It has been almost 4 months since the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency was declared. Egremont experienced an immediate influx of residents when the part-time residents who own property in Egremont flocked to get out of the congested areas that they lived and worked in. To date Egremont has had 5 confirmed cases of the virus. We are thankful for our residents who took this virus seriously and set out to protect their families and neighbors.

Egremont's first outdoor town meeting was a resounding success. With the short shower that came through before the meeting began, there was a beautiful rainbow.



Though quite warm until about an hour into the meeting when the sun went behind the trees, 106 registered voters attended. The Town's budget of \$4,662,000 was approved.

Thank you to Wheeler & Taylor for donating 100 masks for our residents. If you need a mask or 2, let us know.

The Town is still planning its annual birthday celebration on August 16 at French Park. We are looking forward to this celebration of Egremont's history. Hopefully by then the

gathering restrictions will be relaxed enough to allow this.

228 voters voted in the Town's Election this year with 186 of them voting by mail and 42 voting in person at Town Hall during reduced hours.

Town Hall is challenged with keeping on top of the guidelines being put out by the Commonwealth and formulating plans to keep its residents and its employees safe. Town Hall remains closed to the public. If an issue cannot be dealt with via phone, then please make an appointment with the appropriate person. Anyone entering Town Hall must wear a mask/face covering, sanitize hands when entering and when leaving. Access to Town Hall is only through the door by the picnic table and you must exit through the front door at the other end of the building. Black mail boxes have been installed at both doors so you can leave and or pick up documents. We will be installing locked boxes for payments to be left in very shortly.

As the Commonwealth moves into the phases of re-opening and issues new guidelines, the Board will adapt and adopt guidelines for different segments of our town government. Please be aware that things are evolving and changing often. Check the town's web page for up to date information, and read all posted signs and guidelines on town buildings and the park.

## ECO-TIP

To keep mice from building nests in vehicles, use fragrant dryer sheets or cotton balls with peppermint oil, or buy Rodent Sheriff. NEVER use d-Con—it results in owl deaths.

**Meet Your Town Employees:**

**Each newsletter we will highlight a different town employee.**



Officer Maximilian Kolb joined the Egremont Police Department as a part-time officer in October of 2017. The following year, in May of 2018, Officer Kolb was appointed as a full-time officer and the Town of Egremont granted him the opportunity to attend the full-time Academy. Officer Kolb graduated from the academy in April 2019 with the Academic Achievement Award, graduating at the top of his class. Since then, he has been serving in Egremont as a full-time police Officer, where he also lives with his wife of 5 years and their young daughter. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, working out, and going on adventures with his daughter. Max also serves as the Animal Control Officer.

**FRENCH PARK:**

The Selectboard has been challenged with how best to keep our beautiful park safe for our residents during the pandemic.

The park is being heavily used, especially the trails. We are happy that our lovely park is being enjoyed. We need to ask that you read the signs and follow the rules, regulations, and posted guidelines.

There has been an on-going issue with dogs off leash throughout the park. There is a leash law that needs to be abided by for the safety of humans and dogs. There is an escalating fine for violations of the leash law. The Selectboard has asked Animal Control Officer Max Kolb to enforce the leash law

throughout Egremont and to patrol the park. Max also happens to be an Egremont Police Officer.

Baseball, Little League and Softball have been authorized to hold practices under strict guidelines. You may see them practicing on the little league or softball fields at the Park. Outside of their practice, use of the fields is only allowed by members of the same family. No games are allowed, that includes no friends getting together for a fun game. Please read the guidelines posted on the gate to the little league field.

The tennis courts are open for singles play, no doubles, through a self-reservation process. There is a clip board at the entry to each of the two courts for you to reserve your one-hour time slot. Please social distance and wear a mask while not playing, sanitize your hands before and after play, and don't share equipment.

The dog park remains open, by self-reservation for residents of Egremont only. The reservation board is at the gate to the dog park. Please do not share your time in the dog park with anyone not from your household, wear a mask/face cover if there are others around, take your dog waste and garbage with you.

The playground equipment remains officially closed and users are at their own risk. The Town just does not have the resources to conduct the required cleaning and sanitizing.

The horse ring is also open for use by self-reservation. The reservation board is at the main gate to the riding ring. Riders in the ring together must be from the same household. Masks/face coverings need to be worn if there are people around outside the ring, but not while riding. Please remove your manure and take your garbage with you.

Please stay safe, enjoy the park, and follow the guidelines so that this treasure can continue to be enjoyed by all.

**Recycling:**

We are proud to offer our residents a compost area and finished compost. But, recently we have noticed an increase in trash bags and other non-biodegradable items being dumped there. The compost does attract some wildlife. This wildlife gets into the compost and drags goodies away, but they are also dragging the plastic bags and other things away. We ask that you please not put your plastic bags and containers into the compost pile when you dump your biodegradable materials.

No shredded paper in the paper compactor. In order to avoid filling up the trash compactor with shredded papers, please take your documents to a shredding event nearby if possible. Many banks in the area sponsor these events.

Clear plastic cups such as the ones we get those delicious iced coffees in, and clear plastic egg cartons are now acceptable in the container recycling bin. No lids and no straws. Polystyrene (#6), colored "keg" cups and opaque (cloudy) are NOT accepted. Paper and styrofoam egg cartons are NOT acceptable. NO aerosol cans in the containers. These are now considered trash.

Recently the Swap Shop and Construction & Demolition box reopened on weekends only. The attendant is not taking any payments for C&D items. He will give you your slip and ask you to drop payment at the Town Hall. Please **NO CASH**. Cash requires direct close contact between people and should not be left outside in the drop boxes.

Hopefully you have all welcomed our new weekend alternate attendant, Chris Guarda. If not, please do so.

All people going to the Transfer Station must wear mask/face coverings if medically able to.

#### ECO-TIP

Buy fabric ribbon. The kind that makes curls when you run it past a scissors blade contains plastic.

#### Council on Aging:

We hope you all enjoyed our June 3<sup>rd</sup> Bag Lunch Event. Even though it was a drive-by and plant pick-up it was a great turn out and so wonderful to see so many of you for a quick "Hello"! Special thanks to Bob Climo, GB Bagel, and Liz Keen, Indian Line farm for their help in making this work for all of us.

Our fall calendar is all set, beginning with our October Birthday Celebration. We will send the schedule out as it gets closer and we know what the situation is.

The big news is the Taxi Grant the Egremont COA has received to cover the costs of rides for those in need. Two taxi services are available to drive vulnerable adults over 55, veterans, homebound individuals, persons with

disabilities and essential workers (medical, nursing home, grocery store workers).

The costs of these rides are fully covered by the grant. Examples of rides include medical appointments, shopping, meal or prescription drug deliveries, workforce transportation and other non-emergency medical trips. For emergencies please call 911. Passengers and drivers must wear masks. The taxi companies will take all necessary sanitary precautions. The service started on June 15 and goes until December 31. To schedule a ride call Peg Muskrat at the COA Office at 528-0182 x 16 Monday thru Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The phone is checked frequently and your call will be returned. For planning purposes it is best, if possible, to call 24 hours in advance. If you have questions please call the above number. We hope this service makes life easier for those who are in need of transportation or cannot drive themselves.

Egremont Walking Challenge.....since so many of you signed up for the MA COA Walking Challenge (which was cancelled due to Covid-19) we thought it would be fun to do our own challenge. It will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> until Sept. 30. Participants can walk as individuals or form a team. If you form a team you would need to practice social distancing. You can set your own challenge.....so many miles per day, an overall total number of miles you may wish to walk etc. Some suggestions: You could walk all of Egremont's scenic town roads, about 35 miles (not including Routes 23 or 41 or private roads) Thanks to Highway Superintendent Jim Noe, we have a map showing all our town roads. Or you could walk the equivalent of the distance from Provincetown to Mt. Washington...one tip of MA to the other, about 255 miles. You could walk the equivalent of the Massachusetts border (515 miles) or the equivalent of the MA tidal shoreline (1,529 miles). To sign up please call the COA at 528-0182 x 16 or email [coa@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:coa@egremont-ma.gov). If you signed up previously please let us know if you would still like to participate. And please let us know what your challenge is. A celebration of participants will be held in early October.

We have a list of volunteers who are willing to grocery shop and run other errands for those who can't get out or are reluctant to go out during these changing times. Contact the COA at 528-0182 x 16 or email [coa@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:coa@egremont-ma.gov) for volunteer names

The high temperatures and humidity in the summer can be just as hard on vulnerable populations as



winter cold and snow. Please keep in mind your elderly or housebound neighbors. It would be good to check on them and see if they need any assistance. A brief phone call can go a long way to brighten someone's day. You can also contact the COA and let us know if you know of someone who could use a helping hand.

If you need assistance with a Home Health Aide we also have a list of local caregivers who are available to assist you.

Don't forget to check out the COA website at [egremontcoa.org](http://egremontcoa.org).

If you haven't already signed up this might be a good time to join the "Good Morning Senior" Program. Participants call in to a designated number each morning, Monday thru Friday between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. A friendly volunteer answers your call and ensures that you are safe. Participation is free. Both the volunteers who answer the phones and those who call in really enjoy making this connection each morning. To sign up or for more info call 528-0182 x 16.

Even though the COA does not hold events over the summer months we are still here for you. Do not hesitate to call us with your questions, concerns or to have a chat. We love to hear from you!

We hope you all have a safe, healthy, happy summer!

#### ECO-TIP

If you print documents, print on once-used paper, or on bleach-free, recycled paper with the highest post-consumer-waste content available.

#### Emergency Management:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Emergency Management is monitoring current events along with ordering and supplying our first responders with proper PPE. The Town's website has an informational page dealing with local, state and national updates so Egremont can have the best and latest information.

Natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time. Massachusetts is susceptible to many natural hazards including floods, hurricanes and tropical storms, tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, severe weather, and others. In addition, man-made

disasters can also occur including hazardous materials incidents, power outages, transportation accidents, water supply problems, terrorism and others. Being aware of the different types of incidents that can occur is a critical part of our community being prepared for emergencies.

In addition to being informed of the types of disasters that could occur, staying updated on situations leading up to and during an emergency is also critical. While many events have little to no notice, hurricanes, blizzards and other weather events do have some advance notice. Be aware of severe weather watches and warnings and understand what they mean. These watches and warnings can be obtained from media sources, the National Weather Service, and All Hazards National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radios. By being alerted of these severe weather warnings, you can take necessary protective actions to keep you and your family safe.

During emergencies information may be available from a number of sources. It is important to sign up for and be prepared to get information in several ways since not all methods are used for all emergencies, and power outages. Other effects of the disaster may cause disruptions in how you get information. Some of the primary ways to get information during an emergency include:

1. Local notification systems such as our Blackboard Connect Alert System uses listed telephone numbers only, so the Town requires registration of cell phones or email addresses. To register or change your contact information, please email or call and we will be happy to assist..

2. Local notifications from public safety may include vehicles using public address speakers or door to door notifications. Other methods may include: Commercial media (TV and radio); MEMA's Massachusetts Alerts smartphone app; MEMA's Twitter or Facebook accounts; MEMA's website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema) or our local community government website [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov); The Emergency Alert System (EAS) via radio and television; Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA); All Hazards National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio.

3. Call 2-1-1 for Non-Emergency Assistance . 2-1-1 is the Commonwealth's primary telephone call center during times of emergency and is able to provide information on emergency resources such as shelter locations.

Egremont's Emergency Management Team prepares and plans throughout the year for all-hazard response. Communication equipment is constantly reviewed and updated. During times of severe weather outbreaks, Amateur Radio volunteers monitor the weather across Berkshire County and are in direct communication with National Weather Service offices in Albany NY and Taunton MA.

If you would like more information on how to prepare, please visit the Town's website preparedness page

[www.egremont-ma.gov/emmerinfo.html](http://www.egremont-ma.gov/emmerinfo.html) or call Town Hall at 413-528-0182 ext 17.

#### ECO-TIP

Unplug chargers when not in use. Chargers draw energy even when not connected to a device. A master switch makes it easy.

#### Fire Department:

Date	Time	Call #	/Location	/Type
4/27/2020	4:28 PM	55	Prospect Lake Rd.	Smell of Gas
4/30/2020	3:57 PM	56	East St Mt. Washington	Medical
5/3/2020	4:22 PM	57	Oxbow Rd.	Propane Leak
5/6/2020	11:54 AM	58	Prospect Lake Rd.	Medical
5/6/2020	10:54 PM	59	Downs Rd. New Marlboro	Mutual Aid
5/8/2020	7:14 PM	60	Egremont Plain Rd.	Alarm/Smoke
5/11/2020	6:30 PM	61	Egremont Plain Rd.	Medical
5/13/2020	5:22 AM	62	Main St.	Medical

5/14/2020	2:02 PM	63	Prospect Lake Rd.	Medical
5/14/2020	4:52 PM	64	Prospect lake Rd.	Alarm/Smoke
5/16/2020	7:57 PM	65	Greenwood Circle	Medical
5/20/2020	7:12 PM	66	Egremont Plain Rd.	Smell of Smoke
5/24/2020	4:10 PM	67	E. Hill Rd. Austerlitz NY	Mutual Aid
5/24/2020	11:54 PM	68	Pinecrest Hill St.	Alarm/Smoke
5/27/2020	4:45 AM	69	Jug End Rd.	Alarm/False
5/28/2020	10:39 AM	70	Ridge Rd.	Shed Fire
5/29/2020	9:06 AM	71	Creamery Rd.	Alarm/False
5/29/2020	12:34 PM	72	Main St.	Alarm/False
5/30/2020	7:39 PM	73	Hickory Hill Rd.	Alarm\False
6/4/2020	11:42 AM	74	Undermountain Rd.	Alarm/False
6/8/2020	5:00 PM	75	Ridge Rd.	Alarm/False
6/11/2020	6:24 PM	76	Egremont Plain Rd.	Medical
6/12/2020	11:51 PM	77	Baldwin North	Smell of gas
6/13/2020	1:29 PM	78	Phillips Rd.	Medical
6/18/2020	11:24 PM	79	Bash Bish Falls upper lot	Search
6/19/2020	11:08 PM	80	Valley View Ave. Russell	Mutual Aid

#### ECO-TIP

Lighting: Look for places where you can use motion sensors, dimmers, or timers to reduce lighting use. Outdoor lights that stay on all night do NOT increase security!

#### Broadband Network Project:

State approves terms of grant to Fiber Connect to extend network to unserved parts of Egremont. On Thursday, May 14, the Town received notice that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) approved the

long-awaited grant to Fiber Connect (FC) to complete their buildout of the fiber optic broadband network to the remaining unserved areas of Egremont. This is good news for the Town as a whole, and GREAT news for the roughly 90 households that do not yet have access to reliable high-speed Internet.

The approval covers the main terms and conditions that will be put into the final agreement between MBI and FC. The next step is for FC and MBI to complete and sign the actual grant award agreement. Both parties have told the Town that working out the final details is a priority for them and, barring unforeseen obstacles, should take only a few weeks. Completion of the MBI-FC agreement will also pave the way for FC to sign the separate agreement with the Town of Egremont, which we negotiated and completed last fall, and which covers the general requirements of a public procurement along with specifics about coverage area, technology, customer service, pricing, and other terms.

Once the agreements are in place, FC will apply to National Grid and Verizon for utility pole licenses to allow FC to hang their cables. These license applications require the utility companies to survey each pole and perform “make-ready” work to prepare for the attachment of FC’s cables. If a pole already meets all codes and regulations, and has the capacity to accommodate the additional cables, there will be little or no make-ready work for that pole. On the other hand, poles that are out of compliance, or that would become non-compliant if additional cables were attached, have to be restructured or replaced. The timeline for make-ready work is controlled by the utility companies and is typically about six months or more. We have learned that the utility companies have a significant backlog of make-ready work in this region and that their union contracts prevent them from subcontracting out this work, so not much can be done to speed up this process.

Meanwhile, there are a few areas where FC will be installing their own poles and do not have to go through the licensing and make-ready processes. Subject to their own work schedule, FC should be able to begin construction in those areas sooner. Once started, actual construction itself is usually

quick and straightforward, and FC will be “lighting up” subscribers as they proceed.

Town continues discussions exploration of emergency backup service. One of the requirements for Internet service that the Town laid out early on is that there be a fallback plan in the event that FC terminates its business in Egremont, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. The goal is to ensure ongoing Internet service with as little interruption as possible. Accordingly, the Town-FC agreement includes provisions for the Town to take over the physical network infrastructure from FC under certain extraordinary conditions. The other necessary element would be an Internet Service Provider (ISP) ready to step in to pick up operations. Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) already works with FC and certain other ISPs to provide some of the behind-the-scenes network services, and the Town is exploring how HG&E might be able to serve as a backup operator should the need ever arise.

Frequently asked questions. Since the news came out in May about state approval of the grant, a number of Egremont residents have contacted Town Hall with questions. Here are some of the FAQs:

**Q:** Our home is in one of the unserved areas of Egremont. When can we get service?

**A:** The main steps needed to bring service to the remaining parts of Town are:

- FC and MBI work out final details and sign state grant award contract
- FC files applications for National Grid and Verizon utility pole licenses\*
- Utility companies survey poles and perform make-ready work\*
- FC obtains permits and easements where required (happens in parallel with pole licensing process)
- FC builds out network cable infrastructure as licensing/make-ready is completed
- FC connects and “lights up” customers on a rolling basis as they build the network extension

\*Note: Pole licensing/make-ready not needed in areas where FC will be installing their own poles

The goal is to have all areas of Egremont covered before the end of 2021. Some areas will be built much sooner than others. But there are many factors that *might* stretch out the timeframe, including a) unanticipated problems in the FC-MBI final negotiations, b) delays on the part of utility companies, and c) unexpected complications during construction (for example,

encountering ledge where poles need to be installed). The Town has no control over the timing of any part of this process.

**Q:** Our home is in the existing coverage area. We wanted to get connected, but FC has been slow to respond. What's up?

**A:** We understand from FC that there were three factors contributing to the backlog but that these have been largely resolved. The three factors were a) increased volume of orders due to people staying home during the pandemic, b) delays in obtaining routers from FC's suppliers (since resolved), and c) shortage of manpower and slower inside work due to Covid precautions. FC says that they have been catching up with the backlog and any further delays should be minimal. Questions on installation scheduling should be directed to FC.

**Q:** How much will FC service cost?

**A:** FC's pricing for installation and service is available on their website at

[www.fiberconnect.website](http://www.fiberconnect.website). As of June 22, 2020, their posted prices for residential service are:

- \$99/month • \$999 Install • 3 Year Agreement
- \$99/month • \$699 Install • 5 Year Agreement
- \$125/month • \$199 Install • 3 Year Agreement

They also offer certain optional add-on services.

FC has indicated to the Town that they will be offering special promotional pricing for installation to:

- Customers in currently-unserved areas who sign up anytime between now and the time construction begins on their road
- Customers in existing service areas for a limited period of time beginning when the FC-Town contract is signed, subject to scheduling installation in "batches" for efficiency (i.e., installation may be held up until there are enough customers in a specific area to make it feasible to send an installation crew at the reduced price)

All questions about FC services and pricing should be directed to FC at [sales@bfcma.com](mailto:sales@bfcma.com) or 413-429-4109. The Town has no further information about FC pricing other than what is available from FC.

**Q:** Will there be reduced pricing for low-income subscribers?

**A:** The FC-Town agreement provides that FC will offer reduced/subsidized pricing for installation and for monthly service to low-income subscribers. Eligibility and other details are still being worked out, but criteria are likely to be similar to those for government housing subsidies or other forms of "safety net" support.

**Q:** How much is the state grant, does this go to the Town, and how will the Town use it?

**A:** The state grant for the network extension in Egremont is \$1,070,000. The entire amount of this grant will go to FC in a series of progress payments based on FC achieving specific project milestones that are laid out in the FC-MBI grant award agreement. The Town is not a party to the grant award agreement and receives NO money from the state in regard to the network project.

### Water Department:

The annual Consumer Confidence Report has been certified and published. You may obtain a copy at Town Hall, or check the Town's website (<http://www.egremont-ma.gov/2019 ccr.pdf>) for the report.

During this time of warmer than usual weather, please use water sparingly. Massachusetts has declared a drought in some areas of the Commonwealth, and there is a serious lack of rainfall over the past months. Thank you for your cooperation!

Did you know that a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day! A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. These leaks waste your water and your money.

**Toilet Leaks** are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH!** Wait for 15 to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

**Faucet Leaks** are easy to find. If it drips, or worse, continues running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is warm, it is costing you extra money! Water dripping or running from the shower head when the shower is turned firmly off, it is usually caused by bad washers or seats which need replacing. Also, check for leaks from the tub faucet when the shower is turned on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low-flow shower head because the water you save with the low-flow device is lost from the tub faucet.



If you have any questions about water supply or billing, the Water Department Clerk is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; 528-0182 ext 17.

#### ECO-TIP

Your kids' crayon drawings? Don't add them to your paper recycling. The crayon makes them like waxed paper. Just toss in trash. (Or frame them?)

#### Planning Board:

The Planning Board mourns the loss of Helen Krancer on April 28, 2020. Helen's tenacious nature to fight for Egremont causes in which she believed served the town well during her fifteen-year tenure. Since May, 2005, Helen no doubt saw many ups and downs in the town. The Planning Board will very much miss her enthusiasm for The Cause, as well as the opportunity to tap her for sage planning advice at most every meeting. Indeed she leaves quite a chasm.

The Planning Board wishes their best to Greg Cherin, who served on the Board for five years, as Chair for his last year. After this year's election, the Board is happy to welcome Matthew Bersani, who will join the Board to take Greg Cherin's position.

As everyone may surmise, the Planning Board has not had a lot of business since before the virus. The Board has, however, recently handled one Form A remotely. The Board is now on a regular Zoom meeting schedule.

Currently the Board continues to work towards a bylaw proposal to manage marijuana business in town. You will hear from the Board in the future on this important issue.

As always the Planning Board welcomes you to join us, now on our Zoom meetings, usually on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7pm. Please check the town website to confirm, as dates are subject to change. You will find instructions there on how to join meetings.

The Egremont Planning Board wishes all a healthy and happy summer.

#### Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Bills:

Fiscal year is from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

Billed quarterly

Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary Real Estate &

Personal Property Tax Bills will be mailed no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There is no grace period on taxes. In order to avoid interest and penalties, be sure to have your payment in the tax collector's office by the due dates indicated on your tax bill(s). Postmarks do not apply.

**Address Changes** – In order to change your address please notify us in writing, by email or regular mail.

**On Line Banking** - UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for payments of real estate, personal property, excise, water and alarm bills. Visit the Town of Egremont web site [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov) and click on "pay your bills on line". Follow the instructions from that point. You will be able to use ACH or a credit card. There are fees assessed by the processor for this service. You will be prompted to continue if you accept the fee.

**Remittance Address:** Tax Collector, Town of Egremont, P.O. Box 368, So. Egremont, MA 01258

**NO CASH PAYMENTS!**

#### Artists on display at Town Hall:

The Town Hall has begun to display paintings, prints and photographs from Egremont's artists. Egremont has an abundance of talented and creative artists. Many of them have agreed to loan or have given to the Town examples of their wonderful works for display. When Town Hall opens we invite you to view them.

In each of the upcoming newsletters we will recognize those artists.

Michele Caplan

Artist Statement

I express myself through abstraction but color is my medium. As I paint, I improvise and respond to the images in front of me. This leads to new ideas and directions. I want to come to a painting with fresh eyes each time I start to work on it. I work quickly, but over a long period of time, often changing the color palate, the proportions or other elements of the painting before a piece "settles". I often work in series, using a previous painting or an important photograph as a starting point. Current themes include circles, images from my garden and the Egremont sky.

I grew up in a visual world but never received formal art training. Daughter of a well known jewelry designer and an art dealer, I pursued careers in social work and public health. When my father died in 1991, he left many open jewelry commissions for clients who requested that I design new work for them, launching me, naively, into the world of art. 10 years later, after developing my



own jewelry design business, I started to paint because I wanted to do something bigger, more colorful, and more full of movement.

In addition to painting in the Berkshires, I am a founding member of Women's Art Power, based in lower Manhattan, and a member of the Guild of Berkshire Artists.

Jon Caplan  
Artist's Statement

Looking back over my interest in photography, there have been numerous periods and events that have drawn me back into the medium... escaping to Berkshire and Hampshire counties during my teenage years, shooting for my year books (high school and college), hitchhiking across country, a variety of other travel adventures, and buying a home years ago in Egremont.

I was fortunate to take a couple of wonderful photography courses in college (B&W, with dark room film processing & printing) that focused strongly on light as the photographer's medium. My wife, Michele's more recent evolution from jewelry designer to painter also has inspired me, and has amplified my awareness and appreciation of color. It's wonderful for us to be able to collaborate. We shared a venue in Pittsfield's First Friday Artswalk this past October, which now feels like years ago.

Since March, I've been more focused on local landscapes, finding solace in my frequent Coronamania Therapy walks. I love the interplay of light and color during the twilight hour on Baldwin Hill and the surrounding area, which has inspired me to attempt to capture the bucolic beauty of Egremont.

### **Friends of Prospect Lake:**

The corona pandemic has impacted life around the lake as it has everything else in our world, but the lake itself is doing just fine. The waters are clear and clean, perfect for swimming and kayaking and canoeing, fishing and motoring about.

One thing the pandemic has made crystal clear is the importance of communicating effectively, actually reaching your target audience. FOPL makes avid use of email to reach people. We also communicate by posting printed notices in a variety of places in Egremont. We post at the General Stores - both South and North, the Post Office, a dozen select

trees and telephone poles, and a small bulletin board on Lakeside Drive.

One of the key locations for a printed notice is the gap on the Eastern side of the lake, the place where people often park to go for a swim or put a boat in. It's good spot for information because of the traffic that makes use of the gap. So we decided to see if we could make our posting at the gap more effective in getting the word out.

We hired Bud Candee to help us on this, and Bud built an imposing bulletin board at the gap that will be difficult to ignore. (We hope!) For one thing, it's very official looking. For another, it's BIG! So thanks to Bud for the first class handy-man special he created. We turned to Egremont's Highway Department to install the bulletin board, a task they did very promptly and efficiently. Kudos to Jim Noe and his crew as well.

Yes, the corona virus has diminished the use of the lake, at least so far, but the lake itself is in good shape for swimming and fishing, for canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, etc.

The Friends of the lake wish all of us an enjoyable summer on the water.

One that very note, FOPL has recently begun its annual membership drive. Membership is \$50 per person per year. If you have not received an invitation from us, please get in touch with Marj Wexler, FOPL's secretary (528-3726). Memberships are critical to FOPL's ongoing work. We welcome new or *re*-newed members alike.

Come join us for the good of the lake we all share.

### **Meeting Schedule:**

*Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.*

*(During the COVID19 Pandemic some boards are not meeting and some are meeting sporadically. All meetings are taking place via Zoom. Please check the town's web page, [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov), for meeting postings.)*

*Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon  
or by appointment*

*Historical Commission - first Wednesday at 4pm*

*Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon  
& by appointment*

*Council on Aging - Meetings as posted.*

*Administrative Assistant is at Town Hall Thursday 9am to 12noon.*

*Board of Health - Monday–Thursday 7am to 12noon. Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am*

*Selectboard - Generally meetings every other Tuesday evenings 6pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.*

*Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Other times and inspections by appointment*  
*Cemetery Commission - first Friday of every month at 8am.*

*Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 5:30pm*

*Finance Committee - January through April. Other times as needed.*

*Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474*

*Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting dates.*

*School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library*

*Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm*

*Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm or by appointment*

*Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm*

*Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall*

*Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed*

*To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.*

#### ***Business listings:***

*In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.*

*Support local businesses:*

*Prospect Lake Park and Campground - camping, swimming*

*413-528-4158 [prospectlk@aol.com](mailto:prospectlk@aol.com)*

*[www.prospectlakepark.com](http://www.prospectlakepark.com)*

*Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.*

*The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B*

*1 Prospect Lake Road*

*413-528-2882*

*[www.innsweetwater.com](http://www.innsweetwater.com)*

*John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant*

*413-528-3469*

*Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-*

*Restaurant & Lodging*

*413-528-6200*

*[www.swisshutte.com](http://www.swisshutte.com)*

*Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.*

*Robin Walther*

*116 Egremont Plain Road*

*413-528-2537*

*[robinschaircaning@gmail.com](mailto:robinschaircaning@gmail.com)*

*Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing*

*413-528-3230*

*41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects.*

*413-528-0112*

*[www.41mainantiques.com](http://www.41mainantiques.com)*

*Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding*

*Lessons, summer programs*

*[www.bluerider.org](http://www.bluerider.org)*

*413-528-5299*

*Green River Arabians & Pintos -*

*Horse Boarding, lessons, judging, farm programs*

*413-528-2367 [arabpinto13@yahoo.com](mailto:arabpinto13@yahoo.com)*

*Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets*

*413-528-8301*

*[www.indianlinefarm.com](http://www.indianlinefarm.com)*

*Ivory Pond Farm -  
Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane  
Rug Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and  
supplies.*

*Tom & Liz Marino*

*413-528-9465*

*[www.lizmarinorughooking.com](http://www.lizmarinorughooking.com)*

*[Llamama@wildblue.net](mailto:Llamama@wildblue.net)*

*Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,  
open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.*

*Syrup and Honey*

*413-528-5710*

*Skip DelVaglio – Old Drone Apiary at Frog  
Cottage (Local Honey)*

*1257 Sheffield – Egremont Road*

*413 528-2308*

*Frog Cottage Goodies: Phyllis & Cynthia  
Pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, fruitcakes,  
cheesecakes*

*1257 Sheffield/Egremont Road*

*Great Barrington MA 01230*

*413-528-2308*

*Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork*

*413-717-0507*

*[www.CosmicResonance.com](http://www.CosmicResonance.com)*

*Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor*

*44 Main Street, South Egremont*

*413-528-9654*

*[healingspiritdc@yahoo.com](mailto:healingspiritdc@yahoo.com)*

*Zorn Core Fitness -*

*Personal, Couples & Group Training*

*Cardio Room - \$25 @ month Free 1 month  
cardio for Egremont residents [zornari@gmail.com](mailto:zornari@gmail.com)*

*46 Main Street, South Egremont*

*413-528-1594 [www.zorncorefitness.com](http://www.zorncorefitness.com)*

*Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe*

*Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga*

*46 Main Street, South Egremont*

*413-528-0828*

*[kbyoga@gmail.com](mailto:kbyoga@gmail.com)*

*Amelia's Holistic Facial Rejuvenation*

*Combined with Reiki Level II and Cranial Sacral  
Release*

*A licensed Aesthetician.*

*"Look and feel as though you just enjoyed a two-  
week vacation...without the jet lag. 518.320.8314*

*[AmeliasHolisticFacials@gmail.com](mailto:AmeliasHolisticFacials@gmail.com)*

*Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer,  
wine, liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more*

*413-528-4796*

*Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating*

*413-528-9633*

*Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail  
wood veneer sales*

*413-644-9696*

*Steve Agar - driving services*

*Ride to the airport, train, etc*

*413-854-7269*

*Lord St. Pierre - General Contractor*

*Home renovations, maintenance and monitoring*

*413-522-3671*

*[llstpierre@yahoo.com](mailto:llstpierre@yahoo.com)*

*"Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services*

*Jack Buckley*

*413-528-1982*

*413-446-1982*

*James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking  
Field Mowing*

*413-528-0102 413-717-2443*

*Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance  
to construction clean-up, ironing, polishing, organizing,  
window washing with free screen cleaning.*

*413-854-7417 [bonbonz75@yahoo.com](mailto:bonbonz75@yahoo.com)*

*Workingdesign  
Architecture and Landscape Design  
15 Sheffield Rd, So. Egremont  
Robert Fakelmann, AIA and Alexis Wreden  
318-436-9657 or 318-548-2238  
[rjf@latech.edu](mailto:rjf@latech.edu) or [awreden@gmail.com](mailto:awreden@gmail.com)  
[www.workingdesign.info](http://www.workingdesign.info)  
No project too small!*

*Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course  
413-528-1262  
[www.catamountski.com](http://www.catamountski.com)*

*Peter Goldberg, Realtor  
Residential, Commercial, Land  
Stone House Realty  
35 Railroad Street, Great Barrington  
413-281-6384m 413-528-4211o*

*Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales  
William Pitt Sotheby's  
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920  
[anitaschilling@gmail.com](mailto:anitaschilling@gmail.com)*

*Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment,  
Apparel & Accessories  
39 Main Street  
413-528-2330 [www.kenverltd.com](http://www.kenverltd.com)*

*Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger  
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23  
413-528-8818  
[www.joanmentzinger.com](http://www.joanmentzinger.com)*

*Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall  
PC repairs - Networking - Internet  
413-854-8660  
[Matthew.wall@yahoo.com](mailto:Matthew.wall@yahoo.com)*

*Dellea.biz Computer Services offers  
affordable on-site Windows computer help and  
technical support as well as remote PC tune-ups. Book  
appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413)  
528-1141*

*Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts  
with nature. Eric F. Ives  
Mass Problem Animal Control Agent  
Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and  
exclusionary work.  
413-528-9813 413-250-5094*

*Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric  
shop and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont  
413-528-0445 [www.brooksidequiltworks.com](http://www.brooksidequiltworks.com)*

*Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much  
more*

*Sue Delmolino Ives  
413-644-0229 [susandelmolino@yahoo.com](mailto:susandelmolino@yahoo.com)*

*Stitched by JessaLu - Jessica Meyer  
Handmade bags for your "Stuff"!  
[www.stitchedbyjesselu.com](http://www.stitchedbyjesselu.com)*

*Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford  
[berkshiresewn@gmail.com](mailto:berkshiresewn@gmail.com)  
413-528-3040*

*Gregory Cherin Photography, South Egremont 1-  
917-991-0553 [info@gregorycherin.com](mailto:info@gregorycherin.com)  
[www.gregorycherin.com](http://www.gregorycherin.com)*

*Berkshire Band Instrument Co. - Kevin S. Wheeler  
185 Route 71, Egremont MA 01230  
413-528-4955*

*Hillsdale Healthcare  
Primary health care. Accepting most MA, NY and  
CT insurance. DOT certified.  
518-325-2273*

*Berkshire Veterinary Acupuncture, LLC -  
alternate veterinary therapies for your pet  
including acupuncture, spinal manipulation, food and  
herbal therapies. In-home or in-office by appointment.  
413-528-1312  
[bvmobilevet@gmail.com](mailto:bvmobilevet@gmail.com)  
[www.berkshireveterinaryacupuncture.com](http://www.berkshireveterinaryacupuncture.com)*



*Berkshire South Regional Community Center  
15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA  
413-528-2810 [www.berkshiresouth.org](http://www.berkshiresouth.org)*

*Non-profit community organization serving 17 towns throughout the Southern Berkshires. Providing a variety of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood to senior citizens - and partners with several local organizations.*

*Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm  
Business law & litigation  
40 Main Street  
413-528-2698 [www.gogel-gogel.com](http://www.gogel-gogel.com)*

*House To House Hauling & Recycling  
413-528-0943  
Trash hauling services and roll-off containers services.*

*Jana Laiz: Local Author  
[www.crowfliespress.com](http://www.crowfliespress.com)  
413-528-0943 [www.janalaiz.com](http://www.janalaiz.com)*

*Erika Ludwig Founder/Teacher  
Berkshire Strings -  
Instruction & Inspiration  
[erika@berkshirestrings.com](mailto:erika@berkshirestrings.com)  
[www.berkshirestrings.com](http://www.berkshirestrings.com)  
[www.fiddlingfemmes.com](http://www.fiddlingfemmes.com)  
<https://berkshirestrings.youcanbook.me/>  
413-528-5739*

*Aston Magna Music Festival  
Saturday evenings at the new Saint James  
Place in Great Barrington, mid-June to mid-July.  
[www.astonmagna.org](http://www.astonmagna.org)  
Susan Obel, Executive Director*

*Dwelling in the Past:*

*Lynn H. Wood, historic land records research  
[dwelling.LHW@gmail.com](mailto:dwelling.LHW@gmail.com)*

*Elisabeth L. Wood, historic and genealogical research*

*[dwelling.ELW@gmail.com](mailto:dwelling.ELW@gmail.com)  
[www.dwellinginthepast.com](http://www.dwellinginthepast.com)*

*Offering the opportunity to find out the history of your home, and learn how its former occupants contributed in shaping the community we live in today. The local research team has extensive knowledge of the archival tools available, and combines that with years of experience in using those resources for bringing the past back into the light.*

*P.O. Box 558 South Egremont MA 01258  
413-528-3919  
Call for a complimentary consultation.*



*(Photo by David Seligman. Rainbow over Baldwin Hill on the evening of Annual Town Meeting, June 23, 2020.)*



*(Photo by Mary McGurn. Selectboard and Moderator at the Annual Town Meeting.)*



*(Photo by Mary McGurn. Town Clerk and Finance Committee at the Annual Town meeting)*

*Town of Egremont  
P.O. Box 368  
South Egremont MA 01258  
413-528-0182*

*[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov)  
[tegrement@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:tegrement@egremont-ma.gov)*

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Office Staff as submitted by Town Departments.*

*"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer."*

# Springfield MRF Recycling Changes EFFECTIVE July 1, 2020

## Yes, Please!

Include these in your container mix



Crystal clear cups  
(lids and straws removed)



Crystal clear egg cartons  
(paper inserts removed)

## No Thanks!

These now belong in the trash



Shredded paper

Aerosol cans



### Clear plastic cups and egg cartons will be acceptable

*Clear plastic cups will be acceptable* in container recycling. Printing on the clear cups is OK. Lids and straws must be removed and placed in the trash. Other plastic cups, such as Styrofoam™, colored "keg" cups, and opaque (cloudy) plastic cups are not acceptable for recycling, despite any recycling symbols. If a clear cup is labeled "compostable," it should not go in with recyclables. *Clear plastic egg cartons will be acceptable.* *Place clear plastic cups and clear plastic egg cartons in with container recycling.*

### Shredded paper and aerosol cans will no longer be accepted

*As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 shredded paper is no longer accepted.* Residents can sometimes bring confidential documents to area businesses such as copy centers for secure shredding and some local banks sponsor free shredding events. The alternative to shredding through a business or event is disposal as trash or, if shreds are paper only and no plastic, in compost. **Aerosol cans** that contained food or personal care ingredients must go in the trash or with bulky waste. Aerosol cans that still contain hazardous ingredients, such as spray paint, must go to a household hazardous waste collection.

Questions? Visit [www.springfieldmrf.org](http://www.springfieldmrf.org) for more information.

# ongoing breaches point to need for vigilance

## monitor your accounts.

It seems as though every time you open a newspaper or listen to a newscast, you hear about another major data breach. The numbers are so mind-boggling – the 2019 Experian breach alone exposed the personal information of 147 million people – that it's hard not to take these breaches personally. But the fact is, experts estimate as many as a third of the people whose files are breached will later experience identity fraud. Given the large number of data breaches, you can be pretty confident that your information has been compromised somewhere – and there's a strong possibility that your personal, financial and/or medical information could be exposed.

That's why it is critical to implement security steps today, *before* something happens. Salisbury Bank offers first-class services to prevent identity theft, under our Identity Theft Security Center Program, featuring Restoration Rescue® or our Ultimate ID® Program. This premium service protects your identity (and your children's) from theft with tools that include fraud alerts, lost document recovery, credit reports, junk mail reduction, dark web monitoring and credential vault. Call us today at 860.596.2444 for more information on these valuable programs.

### What to do if the worst happens

If you suspect your information has been compromised, follow the steps below to minimize damage to your identity and credit.

1. Report any suspected fraud to your bank immediately.
2. Use online banking to monitor your bank accounts regularly for fraudulent transactions. Sign up for email alerts from your bank for certain types of transactions, such as online purchases or transactions of more than \$500.
3. Monitor your credit report. Order a free copy of your credit report every four months from one of the three credit reporting agencies at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).
4. Consider putting a freeze on your credit reports. It's free and prevents lenders from pulling your credit report – and criminals from opening credit cards using your identity. ***This has to be done with all three credit reporting companies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.*** Note that if you want to apply for a loan or credit, you'll need to temporarily unfreeze them.
5. Monitor all your credit card statements and report any fraudulent charges immediately to the issuer.
6. Change your passwords on credit cards and online banking accounts.
7. Maintain a log of all the contacts you make with authorities regarding the matter. Write down names, titles, and phone numbers in case you need to re-contact them or refer to them in future correspondence.



For more advice, contact the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) ID Theft Consumer Response Center at 1.877.ID.THEFT (1.877.438.4338) [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft).

This document is designed to provide informative material and is distributed with the understanding that it does not constitute legal or other professional advice. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. Information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy and interpretation are not guaranteed.

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Bank-by-Phone: 877.728.1212